

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new abstract:

ABSTRACT

Polypeptides that are toxic to nematodes are described. The polypeptides are related to those produced by certain bacteria, e.g., *Xenorhabdus* and *Photorhabdus*, that are naturally associated symbiotically with entomopathogenic nematodes. The bacteria themselves or nematode control agents derived from the bacteria, e.g., toxic peptides can be used as nematode control agents.

On page 4, amend the last paragraph as follows:

The bacterial species is typically of the genera *Xenorhabdus* or *Photorhabdus*, preferably the genus *Xenorhabdus*, for instance the species *Xenorhabdus bovienii*. Examples of particularly preferred bacteria include:

*Xenorhabdus bovienii* strain H31 Deposited with NCIMB (23 St. Macher Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3RY, Scotland, UK) under accession number NCIMB 40985 on 20 January 1999;

*Xenorhabdus bovienii* strain 173 deposited with NCIMB (23 St. Macher Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3RY, Scotland, UK) under accession number NCIMB 40986 on 05 November 1998; and

*Xenorhabdus* strain C42 deposited with NCIMB (23 St. Macher Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3RY, Scotland, UK) under accession number NCIMB 41004 on 05 November 1998.